Unwanted calls/SMSs and tele shopping messages

1541. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased lo state:

(a) whether Government is aware that consumers are being flooded with unwanted calls, SMSs and tele shopping messages from different agencies;

(b) if so, what Government has done to advise mobile service providers to block such unwanted calls and messages;

(c) whether Government will propose to bring any law restricting tele shopping, online shopping and bring all persons doing tele shopping business under some regulations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the growing dissatisfaction among the consumers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, acting in the consumer interest, had issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations 2007 on 5th June 2007. Consequently, the National Do not Call (NDNC) Registry had been established, which is primarily a national database containing list of telephone numbers of all such subscribers, who do not want to receive the Unsolicited Commercial Communications. Further, Government has also advised all Mobile Service Providers to increase the public awareness regarding registration of their telephone numbers in NDNC registry to avoid unwanted telemarketing calls.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The tele shopping/online shopping is a process which is initiated by the subscriber/consumer himself and does not fall within the ambit of Unsolicited Communications.

Project arrow

1542. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Project Arrow;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts proposed to extend 'Project Arrow' scheme to 500 post offices across the country during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details of post offices identified for this purpose in the State of West Bengal; and

(d) in what manner the Project Arrow strengthen the core business of the Department of Posts?